



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 633

Chairperson: Mike Friend
Committee: Urban Affairs
Date of Hearing: February 24, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 633 would create the Neighborhood Development Act. The Neighborhood Development Act would provide grants to neighborhood associations and smaller communities across the state to assist with significant community improvement projects that focus on enhancing the quality of life in the area.

LB 633 is based on legislation that was introduced in 1999 and 2002, but differs slightly in that it would make the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska-Omaha the administrator of the Neighborhood Development Act instead of the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Neighborhood Associations and small communities play a critical role in sustaining the vitality of both urban and rural communities and in revitalizing declining neighborhoods and communities. This legislation would enhance the ability of neighborhood associations and small community groups to develop community development plans and to coordinate the use of existing programs to use funds more efficiently and effectively in support of new programs and initiatives.

Under LB 633, neighborhood associations and small communities would apply for grants through the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The organization would need to demonstrate that a grant fund will be used for a specific project with a specific benefit to the neighborhood or community served. A recipient of a grant would also need to demonstrate that the project would be completed within a year, that residents would be involved in the planning, development and execution of the project and that it does not duplicate an existing program. A grant recipient would also need to provide a match in either dollars or in-kind value equivalent to: 25% for a grant of up to \$5,000; 26% to 49% for a grant of more than \$5,000 but \$7,500 or less; or 50% or more for a grant of more than \$7,500 but \$10,000 or less. No grant could exceed \$10,000.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Heath Mello